

# **Town of Frederick Board of Trustees**



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**AM 2010-037**

## **TO PROVIDE A RELEASE OF LIABILITY LETTER TO SAGE ECOLOGICAL FOR THE WETLANDS PRESCIBED BURN OPERATION**

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**Agenda Date:** Town Board Meeting - March 23, 2010

**Attachments:** a. Release of Liability letter

**Fiscal Note:** None noted

  
Finance Director

**Submitted by:** Richard Leffler, P.E.   
Town Engineer

**Approved for Presentation:**   
Town Administrator

**AV Use Anticipated** Projector \_\_\_\_\_ Laptop \_\_\_\_\_

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**Certification of Board Approval:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### **Summary Statement:**

A release of liability letter is required to allow Sage Ecological Services, the consultant managing the wetlands for the Town, to work with the Frederick-Firestone Fire Department and Mountain View Fire Department to conduct a prescribed burn of a section of the wetlands near the northwest corner of Bulrush Blvd (WCR 5) and Highway 52.

### **Detail of Issue/Request:**

Part of the management plan for the Bulrush Wetlands area calls for the areas to be burned periodically to foster the continued health of the plant species desired in these wetlands. The plan calls for approximately twenty-five percent of the wetlands to be burned each year on a rotating basis. The Town retained Sage Ecological Services to help manage the wetlands and they have coordinated prescribed burns the past two years. The burns resulted in the growth of desirable plants and bird habitat in the wetlands. In preparation for work to reclaim the area around the oil and gas well removed last year and to facilitate planned improvements for public access, Sage Ecological will coordinate the burning of part of the northern wetlands area this spring. The fire departments help keep the fire

contained and use this as a training opportunity for their grassland fire crews. Since the burning is dependant on weather conditions, a range of dates between March 24 and May 17 is proposed.

**Legal/Political Considerations:**

The wetlands area is covered under the Town liability insurance policy.

**Alternatives/Options:**

Not conduct the burns which results in an increasing supply of combustible material that would be a fire hazard in an uncontrolled manner. The wetlands plant species in a natural setting are typically subject to periodic grass fires and this is beneficial for their continued health.

**Financial Considerations:**

This operation is part of the wetlands management costs and the fire departments volunteer their time as part of a training opportunity.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Approve the attached Release of Liability letter and authorize the Mayor to sign it.